GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2435
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
INCREASE IN PC PENETRATION
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed very low penetration of Personal Computer (PC) in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to increase PC penetration in rural areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The cost of PC, access charge,non availability of suitable content in the local language,tools and interfaces and applications for the rural populace are some of the major reasons.

(c): (i) Government is in the process of establishment of 100,000 broadband Internet Enabled Kiosks called Common Service Centres in rural areas of the country in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State.These will be established as Public Private Partnerships. The centres would create awareness about PC usage and its benefits in addition to reaching out government and other services at the doorstep of the citizen.

(ii) The DIT Government of India has a programme called the Technology Development for Indian Languages with the objectives:

To develop information processing tools to facilitate human machine interaction, in Indian Languages and multi-lingual knowledge resources.

To promote the use of information processing tools for language studies and research.

(iii) The Government is facilitating the Industry to make available computers at affordable prices in the country. The Government has taken a number of steps for promotion of Electronics/ IT hardware manufacturing and cutting down the prices of electronics hardware,including computers.The details are given in the Annexure.